

## MARITIME DAY

**HON. DAVID VITTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 30 as World Maritime Day. I urge the members of Congress to join me in saluting the hard working men and women of the Merchant Marine.

Each day, mariners perform a vital service in the global economy by ensuring that international trade proceeds without interruption. They work long hours in all kinds of weather. Whether they sail on the storm-tossed waves of the North Atlantic or the tropical heat of the South Pacific, these men and women perform their duties without recognition or fanfare.

Mariners and many others contribute to homeland security, and we must give them the support they need to effectively keep our ports safe. As we recognize Maritime Day, we cannot overlook the human element. Mariners sail for many weeks without being ashore or hearing a loved one's voice on a call home.

We thank the mariners for their continued commitment to keeping us all secure, and we focus our attention on the challenge in their industry of balancing security needs with mariners' need for shore leave. I urge members of Congress to join me in working to reach a solution that provides the utmost in security for ports and harbors around the world while allowing for the personal needs of the men and women who sail these great ships.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to salute and honor the men and women of the Merchant Marine on this World Maritime Day.

HONORING LIFE AND WORK OF  
DUKE ELLINGTON

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 501, which honors the life and work of Duke Ellington and recognizes the 30th Anniversary of Duke Ellington School of the Arts. I add further that the Duke Ellington School is where the Washington DC Satirical Group, the theater troupe Hexagon, performs every year to raise funds for local charities. Over the last 17 years many members of Congress have performed in the annual "Congress Goes to Hexagon" Night, organized each year by Skip Maraney, of the National Star Route Mail Contractors Association. Hexagon Inc is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
OFFICER JAMES L. DAVIS**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Butler

University Officer James L. Davis of Indianapolis, Indiana, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on September 24th.

On the morning of Friday, September 24th, Officer Davis responded to reports of a suspicious person at the Hinkle Fieldhouse on Butler University campus. While questioning the subject, he was shot and fatally wounded, becoming the first ever Butler University police officer killed in the line of duty. He was 31.

Known as J.J. to his family, James L. Davis graduated from Indiana University in 1995 with degrees in criminal justice and Afro-American studies. He served our country proudly as a military policeman with the United States Army.

Throughout his distinguished record of public service, James Davis displayed an unwavering commitment to the youth of Indianapolis. In 2001, James supervised 96 Juvenile offenders for the Indiana Department of Correction as a youth service officer. From January 2001 to August 2002, he served as a drill instructor for troubled youth with Project Impact, a program that provides counseling, job training, school drop-out prevention, tutoring and mentoring to at-risk first- and second-time youth offenders. After serving as a corporate security officer for Conseco, Inc., James Davis joined the Butler University police force in January of 2003.

During his full-time service on the police force, James continued his education in the pursuit of justice. At the time of his death he was only two months from completing his master's degree, an important step on the way to fulfilling his career goal of becoming a civil rights lawyer. James had also planned to create a charity honoring his late mother.

The admiration of his colleagues speaks volumes to the strength of his character. To the Chief of the Butler Police, James was "probably one of the most genuine people I've ever known." To his Project Impact supervisor, he was "galactic in regards to his love for humanity." In my community, the outpouring of sympathy and grief for this remarkable man has been extraordinary. In the few days since his passing, hundreds have written cards and e-mails to the department honoring our departed neighbor and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my deepest condolences to his wife Valeeda, his three beautiful children, Josiah, 8, Jarren, 3, and Jaedyn, 2, his sister Mylandar Davis, and his loving family and friends.

James L. Davis will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched. The citizens of Indianapolis extend our most sincere appreciation for his personal sacrifice and commitment to public service.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W.  
JOHNSON**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful leader of 28 years in my community: Charles W. Johnson.

Charles Johnson is a father, a son, a husband, and most of all a beloved friend.

San Diegans will honor him at the Linda Vista Civic Association meeting on October

21, 2004. His friends, family, and supporters will join together to salute Charles for his selfless and steady dedication to improving our community.

His life is a great American story. It is a classic story of one of the kids that made good.

A retired Navy Master Chief, he graduated high school in Paris, Texas and joined the Navy immediately after.

The Navy brought Charles to San Diego, where he attended San Diego City College and Mesa College.

He is a Linda Vista community activist. He has dedicated countless hours to improving the quality of life for Linda Vista residents.

Charles is a proud founder of the Linda Vista Civic Association and is the immediate past chair.

The Civic Association is a positive force for improving the quality of life for all Linda Vista residents and promoting the involvement of community members of all ages.

They are committed to coordinating, advising, and ensuring that projects operating in the neighborhood do so with collaboration, cooperation, and teamwork, and in a manner consistent with the vision of the Collaborative.

Charles continued his activism as a past chair of the Linda Vista Boys and Girls Club and of the Access Center.

He was a member of the Linda Vista Planning Committee for over six years and the City of San Diego Citizens' Advisory Board on Police-Community Relations.

Charles Johnson was an enthusiastic member of the City of San Diego Redistricting Commission, where he was a strong advocate for his community.

He is an American patriot. He honorably served our country in the military. He continues today as a member of the American Legion and VFW.

I wish to congratulate Charles Johnson for his untiring work on behalf of Linda Vista community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BONNIE  
ELLIOTT**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mrs. Bonnie Elliott upon her retirement after 21 years of service to the citizens of the Charter Township of White Lake, Michigan.

For nearly three decades, Bonnie has lived in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, though she has always yearned to return to her Upper Peninsula roots; and, upon her retirement, she will realize her dream of once again living the Upper Peninsula.

Bonnie served as Township Clerk for 16 years before being appointed as White Lake Township Supervisor five years ago. During her tenure, the Township has seen significant growth, becoming an enviable location to live and raise a family.

Through her work as a community activist, and an elected official, Bonnie has been integral to the heart of this growing township. She is a charter member of the White Lake Historical Society and a member of both the White